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MacDonald wants highway $$ here

Assemblyman J. K. acDonald (D-Ojai) has troduced a resolution emanding the alifornia Highway mmission divert $23 illion to priority ojects in the Los ngeles, Orange and entura Counties.

The resolution, ACR 69, calls for the Highway Commission to give recognition to the $4.2 billion state highway priority in the District 7, and divert the $23 million slated for development of the Mineral King Highway.

"Costly court delays have increased the projected costs of the Mineral King Highway from the budgeted amount to more than an estimated $40 million," MacDonald said.

"Further delay will mean that even more funding must be allocated for that project by the time construction is actually started," he said. "Whether or not the Mineral King project is approved is not the question. The fact is that the Commission estimates there are serious, even critical projects of higher priority than the Mineral King construction. Money from that project should be reallocated to these projects."

MacDonald said he would also urge Walt Disney and Associates to consider moving its proposed winter development project to another location such as Squaw Valley, where environmental damage would not be as serious a factor.

In June of 1969, the Sierra Club brought suit to halt commercial development of the Mineral King project and the use of public funds for construction of a highway which will serve the proposed winter amusement area.

The project has been involved in controversy since the concept of a massive winter amusement area, comparable to when his world-famed Disneyland was first announced by Disney several years ago,

"It is tragic that critical projects await funding while this much money, to be used for the benefit of a single private development, is tied up pending the uncertain outcome of federal court actions," MacDonald said.

Assemblyman MacDonald is joined by Senator Lagomarsino and a number of other legislators in authoring ACR 69.